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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the acts of aggression and military violations of Iraq's sovereignty perpetrated by a Turkish Government that seeks to occupy Iraqi territory in order to establish so-called "security zones".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attacks and violations of a military nature being waged against the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq which are the work of a Turkish Government that is determined to occupy portions of Iraqi territory in which it has created so-called "security zones" or "buffer zones" and has deployed large numbers of troops throughout what it refers to as "the temporary danger zone".

Far from being isolated acts, these acts of aggression are in fact openly supported by the United States of America. Indeed, news services around the world reported the remarks made by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, on 7 September 1996 when, in an interview with some of the journalists accompanying him on his visit to Europe, he said "the Turks have good reason to be worried about their borders, and their fears are justified", adding that the Turkish authorities had informed the United States that the security zone set up within Iraqi territory would be temporary.

These statements and this blatantly aggressive attitude make it clear to the United Nations and to the international community at large that the United States of America is displaying utter contempt for the rules of international law and for the sovereignty and independence of States. Not content with stepping up its threats and daily acts of provocation against the Iraqi people, the United States Government is encouraging certain States and certain factions to follow in its footsteps and to take up practices which are entirely foreign to the commonly accepted rules and usages of international relations.

While urging the United Nations to put an end to the above-mentioned acts of aggression which threaten Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Iraqi Government holds the United States Government fully accountable for any consequences its aggressive and illegal attitude towards Iraq and its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity may have. Furthermore, the Iraqi Government reserves the right to take any steps it deems necessary to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty and to ensure the safety of its people in the face of the policy of aggression pursued by the United States.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq